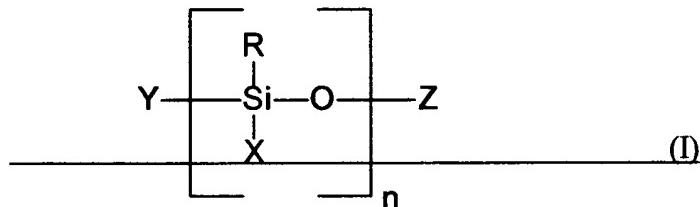


**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of preparing a treated silica substrate comprising the sequential steps of:

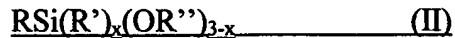
- a) providing silica particles;
- b) contacting the silica particles with [a] at least one polysiloxane conforming to formula (I)



wherein n is an integer greater than 1, preferably between about 30 to about 100;  
X is selected from a hydrogen atom or an R' group, preferably methyl;  
R, R' are independently selected organic groups, with from about 1 to about 20 carbon atoms; and

Y and Z are silicon-containing terminating end groups, preferably Y is –OSi(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> and Z is –Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>; and

- c) contacting the silica particles with an organosilane described by the formula:



wherein R is a long-chain hydrocarbon group having between about 8 to about 30 carbon atoms, and optionally contains organofunctional groups selected from the group consisting of vinyl, methacryl, amino, sulfur, and epoxy groups; R' and R'' are independently selected from the group consisting of a methyl and an ethyl; and X is either 0 or 1.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the silica particles are provided by precipitation.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (previously presented): The polymer composition according to claim 19, further comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of epoxy resin, polyurethanes, polyesters, silicones, and hydrocarbon oils.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The polymer composition according to claim 19, wherein the STI of the polymer composition is about 1.2 to about 100.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): The treated silica substrate produced by the method of Claim 10.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A polymer composition comprising the treated silica substrate of Claim 18.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The polymer composition of Claim 16 wherein the STI of the polymer composition is about 1.4 to about 5.